

WOOLGOOLGA PUBLIC SCHOOL – A BRIEF HISTORY

The first move to establishing a school at 'Woolgoolgah' was made in 1882 when an application was made for the establishment of a provisional school. At that time 17 children were in need of an educational facility with the nearest school being 40 miles away!

Initially the request was declined but aid was offered for a 'half time' school at 'Woolgoolgah' to be worked in conjunction with Corindi. The residents of both localities accepted the offer and erected suitable buildings for teaching purposes.

Towards the end of 1883 the school was ready for occupation under the charge of Mr Daniel Mackey. By the end of the year the enrolment at 'Woolgoolgah' comprised six boys and twelve girls. The school operated on a half time basis until 1889 and the Department records show by that time the school had been converted to a public school. On the 11th January 1889 application for the permanent 'Woolgoolgah' school site was made and within two days tenders were called for the erection of a 'wooden school'. On the 17th June 1889 District Inspector Lobban certified the work of the building as finished at a cost of £160.14.9 with the original school building being sold for £3.10.0! By 1935 enrolments had increased to 99. In 1969 there were 326 pupils, including 96 in secondary classes. During the 1960's and the 1970's, Woolgoolga's increasing Sikh population contributed to the general rise in school numbers and by the mid 1970's 25% of total school numbers comprised of Sikh children.

The school was reclassified as a 1st Class Central School in 1978 and in 1981, when the township gained a High School, it reverted to public school status. Today, Woolgoolga Public School is proud to provide its students with

a stimulating, challenging and caring environment. Without doubt the school motto, 'learning, caring, sharing' describes the ethos of Woolgoolga Public School and its community.

NOTE: if you can help to identify any of the photographs please contact the school on Ph: 66541305.



WPS 1889 Courtesy Neil Yeates Book



WPS at the Lake Year Unknown



WPS 1908 Courtesy Neil Yeates Book